

4.—Drainage Basins

NOTE.—Classified by the Engineering and Water Resources Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa.

Drainage Basin	Area Drained ¹ sq. miles	Drainage Basin	Area Drained ¹ sq. miles
Atlantic Basin		Arctic Basin	
Atlantic Provinces.....	213, 885	Great Slave Lake.....	370, 681
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River...	359, 312	Arctic.....	559, 676
Total.....	573, 197	Total.....	930, 357
Hudson Bay Basin		Pacific Basin	
Northern Quebec.....	343, 259	Pacific.....	273, 540
Southwest Hudson Bay.....	283, 997	Yukon River.....	127, 190
Nelson River.....	368, 182	Total.....	400, 730
Western Hudson Bay.....	383, 722	Gulf of Mexico Basin.....	10, 121
Total.....	1, 379, 160	Area, Canada (less Arctic Archipelago)	3, 310, 396

¹ Areas are approximate and are exclusive of those portions of the basins of all rivers that lie in United States territory.

In Eastern Canada, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence drainage basin dominates all others and forms an unequalled system of navigable inland waterways through a region rich in natural and industrial resources. From Duluth at the head of Lake Superior to Belle Isle at the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the distance is 2,280 miles. The St. Lawrence waterway and its tributaries, most of which have lakes available for reservoiring, have very large developed and potential power resources.

The greater part of Canada drains into Hudson Bay and the Arctic Ocean; the Nelson River drainage is exceptional in running *through* the most arable and the most settled part of Western Canada, but otherwise the rivers of the West, east of the Rockies, run *away* from the settled areas towards the cold northern salt waters and this adversely affects their industrial utility. The Mackenzie River, which drains Great Slave Lake, is, with its headwaters, the longest river in Canada (2,635 miles) and its valley constitutes the natural transportation route through the Northwest Territories down to the Arctic Ocean. From Fort Smith, on the Slave River, large river boats run without any obstruction down to Aklavik on the delta of the Mackenzie, a distance of 1,292 miles. Table 5 gives the lengths of the principal rivers with their tributaries classified according to the four major drainage basins.

5.—Lengths of Principal Rivers and Their Tributaries

NOTE.—In this table the tributaries and sub-tributaries are indicated by indentation of the names. Thus, the Ottawa and other rivers are shown as tributary to the St. Lawrence, and the Gatineau and other rivers as tributary to the Ottawa.

Drainage Basin and River	Length miles	Drainage Basin and River	Length miles
Flowing into the Atlantic Ocean		Flowing into the Atlantic Ocean—con.	
St. Lawrence (to head of St. Louis, Minn.)..	1, 900	Ottawa—concl.	
Ottawa.....	696	Mississippi.....	105
Gatineau.....	240	Petawawa.....	95
du Lièvre.....	205	South Nation.....	90
Coulouge.....	135	Dumoine.....	80
Madawaska.....	130	North.....	70
Rouge.....	115	North Nation.....	60